

Congleton

MARCH, 1920.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

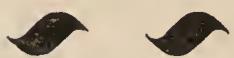
— OF —

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

For the year ending December 31st, 1919.

T. GORDON, PRINTER, CONGLETON.

REPORT.



Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

During 1919 I examined 661 children, this included Entrants, Intermediate Groups, Leavers and special cases of defective children brought to my notice by the teachers of the various schools; I have also re-examined 305 children who were found defective at the routine examination. The figures given in the Tables do not include any examinations made by the School Nurse, whose work is dealt with towards the end of this report.

The Ministry of Health have taken over all the powers and duties of the Board of Education with respect to the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children. One of their Medical Officers, Dr. H. C. T. Langdon, visited Congleton on the 16th December, 1919, for the purpose of inspecting the arrangements of the School Medical Service, he gave a good deal of helpful advice and criticism, he considered that a larger number of special cases should be brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer annually, a rather larger number than usual of these cases have been seen this year, the number being 63, but he considered that 200 would be nearer the mark if all special cases were seen. He also considered that I should personally re-examine all cases where defects were found, except in cases of lack of cleanliness and defective boots and clothing, this was fairly well carried out in 1919. He also considered that the School Nurse should every term visit each School in the Borough and make a routine examination of every girl's head and any boy's head indicated as desirable by the teacher, some misunderstanding occurred with regard to this matter, the School Nurse has made a practice of visiting each school at least once a term, but has only examined the heads of those children brought to her notice by the teachers, she has now commenced to make the routine examination as suggested by Dr. Langdon. Dr. Langdon pointed out the desirability of provision of treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids, the employment of a School Dentist and a School Oculist, and the establishment of a School Clinic.

All the Schools in the Borough were closed from 24th February to 24th March, 1919, on account of the Influenza epidemic; Brook Street Wesleyan School was closed from 31st March to 14th April, 1919, owing to the illness of the Head Master and two Teachers; and St. James' Infant School was closed from 31st July to 8th August, 1919, owing to the prevalence of Chicken-pox.

The body of this report deals with fresh defects found in 1919, previous defects having been mentioned in previous reports, but the figures are also included in Table IV.

NUTRITION.

16 cases of malnutrition were found, 12 of which were treated, with a resulting satisfactory amount of improvement.

UNCLEANLINESS.

94 fresh cases of uncleanliness of head or body were found this year as compared with 110 in 1918 and 219 in 1917, which shows a remarkable amount of improvement in the cleanliness of the school children in this town, 64 of the cases were remedied and 18 improved.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

There were 7 cases of defective clothing and 18 of defective boots, 19 of these defects were remedied or improved,

SKIN DISEASES.

45 cases of skin disease were found, and all were either remedied or improved during the year, they included 3 cases of Boils, 2 of Chilblains 2 of Warts, 1 of Alopecia Areata, 25 of Eczema, 1 of Ringworm, 6 of Scabies, and 5 of Impetigo Contagiosa, these last 12 cases being excluded from School until cured.

NOSE AND THROAT.

66 cases of Enlarged Tonsils, 4 of Adenoids, and 13 of Tonsils and Adenoids were referred for treatment, and 24 were treated with good results, 3 cases of Nasal Catarrh improved under treatment, as did also a case of Deflected Nasal Septum, the provision of treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids would undoubtedly result in a larger number being operated on with a resulting improvement in the health of the children. A number of mild cases of Enlarged Tonsils were kept under observation but not referred for treatment, and many of these were found to be improved on re-examination.

SPEECH.

One case of defective speech was referred for treatment without any satisfactory result; I have brought to your notice a case of a boy who

is deaf and dumb and advised that you should send him to a special school as soon as a vacancy occurs; 6 cases of slight defects of speech are being kept under observation, and the attention of the teachers has been drawn to these cases.

TEETH.

208 cases of defective teeth were found, only 72 received any attention, and no great improvement can be expected in this class of disease until a School Dentist is employed,

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

13 cases, chiefly of Blepharitis, were found, and 10 of these received treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was seen at school, and this case is now being treated at home and showing signs of improvement, there are two other children of school age in the town with this disease, but they are not at school, and are now on the highway to recovery. Three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were found at school, all 3 being operated upon during the year with good results, there are 2 other cases of this class among school children in the town who are both having appropriate treatment, these 2 latter however have not been at school during 1919. There are also attending school 1 case of arrested Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 19 cases of arrested or cured Tuberculosis of other types. 2 cases of suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis were seen at school and one case at the child's home, 1 case was referred for treatment with beneficial results, and the other 2 were already under the care of a medical man.

BRONCHITIS.

18 cases of Bronchitis were found, all were referred for treatment, 4 recovered, and 13 derived more or less benefit from the treatment.

EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

20 cases of Affections of the Ear, and 18 of defective hearing were found, 16 cases of Wax in the Ear, there was 1 case of Aural Catarrh, and 3 of Otitis Media. 13 of the cases of defective hearing were remedied, 2 improved, and 1 derived no benefit from treatment. 18 of the cases of Ear Disease were treated, with beneficial results in 17 instances.

VISION AND SQUINT.

52 defects were found and referred for treatment, 18 received treatment with benefit in 15 cases. Parents do not realise the great importance of treating these defects.

RICKETS AND DEFORMITIES.

7 cases of Rickets were referred for treatment, 3 were kept under observation, and 5 showed some improvement during the year. 19 cases of deformities were referred for treatment, 6 were kept under observation, and 13 derived some benefit from the treatment received.

MENTALLY DEFICIENT CHILDREN.

There are 3 imbeciles of school age, the parents in each case look after them very well, in 2 cases institutional treatment has been definitely refused, but the other case a boy of 5 also suffers from Infantile Paralysis and in general is in a poor state of health, and the parents I think at a later date will be willing for him to enter an institution, the mother at the time of his birth suffered from Eclampsia. There are also three children attending school who I have classified as feeble minded, 2 derive I think slight benefit from school and will eventually be able to follow some employment, they are able to look after themselves but cannot learn to read or write, the third case can look to a certain extent after herself and answer some questions intelligently, but can neither read, write nor occupy her hands with any useful occupation such as sewing, I find the parents in this class of case very reluctant to send their children to special schools, and I doubt whether any of these children would benefit if such a course was followed. Also one mentally deficient girl does not attend school, she is now very useful at home, is decidedly improving, and the parents refuse institutional treatment.

DULL AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

There are 58 children retarded 2 years, and 11 are retarded 3 years all of these children derive benefit from their education, though some to a much greater extent than others. I have examined these children carefully, and classified them as follow:—

Dull	...	..	...	...	...	12
Dull (family history of dullness or abnormality)				...	...	5
Backward owing to starting school late		...		...	...	2
Backward owing to late mental development	...			...	...	2
Backward owing to inattention to lessons	...			...	...	1
Backward owing to interrupting studies by frequently changing schools	...	...	...	..	..	1
Backward owing to irregular attendance	...			...	...	13
Backward owing to past or present illnesses	..			...	...	33

The special attention of the teachers is drawn to these cases, and notices sent out only when some other defect is present.

EPILEPSY.

Three cases were found, 1 is receiving medical treatment at present, the other 2 are very doubtful cases and are being kept under observation

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 case of Constipation, 5 of Goitre, 1 of Rheumatism, and 5 of enlarged glands due to other causes than Tuberculosis were referred for treatment, and 11 derived some benefit from treatment.

CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE EMPLOYED IN 1919.

106 children were exempted from attendance at school during 1919 at the age of 13, on attendance qualification, and were employed as follows:—

Tobacco Workers	...	...	...	19
Towel Weaving	...	...	...	20
Silk Spinning...	...	...	...	20
Velvet Cutting	...	...	...	3
Shirt, Skirt and Blouse Making	...	...	...	9
Wood Turning	...	...	...	2
Paper Bag Making	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Making	...	...	...	1
Bleach and Dye Works	...	...	...	1
Hosiery Manufacturing	...	...	...	6
Smallware Manufacturing	...	...	...	7
Errand Lads for Tradesmen	...	...	...	7
Farming	...	...	...	1
Domestic Service	...	...	...	1
Engineering	...	...	...	1
Baking	...	...	...	2
Window Cleaning	...	...	...	1
Hairdressing	...	...	...	1
Saddle Making	...	...	...	1
Colliery (Pit Bank)	...	...	...	1
No Occupation	...	...	...	1
				106

4 children received Half-Time exemption from school, and are employed as follows:—

Silk Spinning ...	...	...	2	(aged 13)
Shirt Making ...	...	...	1	(aged 13)
At home, looking after infirm grandmother	...	...	1	(aged 12)

23 Full Time Exemptions were granted in 1919 to children not having made the attendances required under the Bye-Laws, on account of the poor financial circumstances of the parents or other circumstances; 17 of these children were 13 years of age, and 6 were 12 years of age, one child has since returned to school, the employments of the children were as follows:—

Agriculture ...	...	...	...	7
Errand Lads ...	...	...	...	3
Shop Assistant...	...	...	...	1
Domestic Service or helping at home...			...	12
				23

SCHOOL NURSE.

The School Nurse has visited at their homes children found defective at my inspections, these children are visited once, twice or three times each year according to whether treatment is speedily carried out or not; she visits in the same way defective cases from previous years, who have not been treated; she also makes casual visits to children who are staying away from school for some disease or defect, who have not been examined at the routine inspections, but whose names have been given to her by the Head Teachers.

She also makes routine visits each term to each school to examine any uncleanly children indicated to her by the teachers, this year she has commenced examining the heads of all girls at each school in the town, and this will be done each term, during the year. She has examined 724 children, paid 1561 visits to their homes, and paid 130 routine visits to the various schools.

I must express my deep indebtedness to the Head and Assistant Teachers for the great help they have always given me during inspections, and also for supplying me with any information about their scholars I may require.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. B. DAVIDSON,
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.,
Member Royal Sanitary Institute,
School Medical Officer.

TABLE I.

Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1919 to 31st December,
1919.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

Age	ENTRANTS.					
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages	Total
Boys	15	36	32	18	2	103
Girls	25	34	29	6	3	97
Totals	40	70	61	24	5	200

Age	Intermediate Group	LEAVERS.					Grand Total
		8	12	13	14	Other Ages	
Boys ...	99	87	0	0	0	0	186
Girls ...	103	101	1	0	0	0	205
Totals ...	202	188	1	0	0	0	391

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years)	Special Cases (3)	Re-Examinations (i.e. No. of Children re-examined) (4)
(2)	(3)	(4)	
Boys	5	33	147
Girls	2	30	158
Totals	7	63	305

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection
in 1919.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for Treatment	Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for Treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition ...	15		1	
Uncleanliness—Head ...	83			
Body ...	8		3	
SKIN—Ringworm—Head ...	1			
Body ..				
Scabies	3		3	
Impetigo	4		1	
Other Disease	30		3	
EYE—Defective Vision & Squint	44		8	
External Eye Disease ...	13			
EAR—Defective Hearing ...	16		2	
Ear Disease	19		1	
TEETH—Dental Disease ...	204		4	
NOSE AND THROAT—				
Enlarged Tonsils	66	39		1
Adenoids	4			
Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	13			
Defective Speech	1	5	1	1
HEART AND CIRCULATION—				
Heart Disease—Organic ..	1			
Functional ...	1		1	
Anæmia	15		2	
LUNGS—Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Definite ...	1			
Suspected ...	1			
Chronic Bronchitis ...	17		1	2
Other Disease ...				
NERVOUS SYSTEM—				
Epilepsy	1			2
Chorea				
Other Disease				
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
Glands	1			
Bones and Joints ...	1			
Other forms	1			
Rickets	2	3	5	
Deformities	11	5	8	
Other Defects or Diseases ...	15	23	1	

TABLE III.
Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1919.

					Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	I		I
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	I		I
		Not at School	...	...	I		I
Mentally Deficient	Feeble Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	I	2	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	I		I
	Imbeciles.	At School	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	2	I	3
	Idiots.						
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	2	I	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	3		3
Physically Defective	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	2	I	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	
		Not at School	...	...	I	I	2
	Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	7	3	10
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	
		Not at School	...	..	I		I
Dull or Backward		Retarded 2 years	...	...	30	28	58
		Retarded 3 years	...	...	7	4	11

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.

TABLE V.

Inspection, Treatment, &c., of Children during 1919.

(1). The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).	661
(2). The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under obser- vation (but not referred for treatment).	72
(3). The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc).	354
(4). The number of children in (3) who received treat- ment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc).	193